



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
**THOMAS M. MENINO**

March 30, 2010

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I transmit for your approval an Order, pursuant to General Law c 114, § 43, authorizing Historic Boston, Incorporated, to renovate the Historic Eustis Fire Station and erect an extension of said Station upon land located at 20 Eustis Street in Roxbury (Parcel Identification Number 080245400), owned by the City of Boston, by and through the Department of Neighborhood Development.

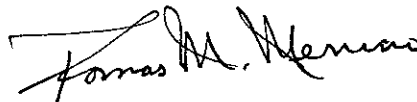
Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 114, Section 43 states that “no building shall be erected upon any burial place belonging to a city, except by special authority from the general court, or with the previous consent of the city council.”

In 1918, the Town of Roxbury voted to construct an “engine house” upon the corner of Eliot Street Burying Ground located at 20 Eustis Street. Such a Fire Station was constructed in 1859 upon said location and an addition was built onto the rear of the Fire Station in 1869. The Eustis Historic Fire Station, is currently owned by City of Boston by the virtue of the Town of Roxbury being annexed to the City of Boston in 1868. The Eustis Historic Fire Station has not been used as a fire station in well over 60 years and has since fallen into disrepair requiring extensive renovation, and reconstruction of the original addition that collapsed in 1991. In 2006, Boston City Council, designated 20 Eustis Street as surplus property and transferred said property to the Department of Neighborhood Development.

Today, the Department of Neighborhood Development intends to lease 20 Eustis Street to Historic Boston, Incorporated, a private, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of endangered historic sites in the City of Boston, pursuant to its proposal to rehabilitate and restore the existing firehouse to its original footprint, including the collapsed rear addition. Within the Eustis Historic Fire Station’s original footprint, recent archaeological excavations have identified two unmarked grave shafts, upon which the original addition stood and where the proposed restored addition would be erected.

Applicability of G L c 114, s. 43 remains uncertain because the erection of the Eustis Historic Fire Station (1859) and its addition (1869) predates the enactment of the statute in 1877. Regardless, as it is in the interest of the City of Boston to renovate and restore the original Eustis Historic Fire Station and addition, while ensuring compliance with G L c 114, s. 43, I recommend the adoption of this Order by your Honorable Body.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas M. Menino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "M".

Thomas M. Menino  
Mayor of Boston

**CITY OF BOSTON**  
**IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER TO AUTHORIZE HISTORIC BOSTON, INCORPORATED TO ERECT A  
BUILDING UPON LAND OWNED BY THE CITY OF BOSTON, LOCATED AT 20  
EUSTIS STREET IN ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS**

**ORDERED:**

That, in order to allow renovation and reconstruction of the Eustis Fire Station in compliance with G.L. c. 114, s. 43, Historic Boston Incorporated, with approval of the Mayor, is authorized to erect the addition to the Eustis Historic Fire Station in the exact footprint of the original 1869 addition, located at 20 Eustis Street, Roxbury

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT  
THE FOREGOING, IF PASSED IN  
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.**



**WILLIAM F. SINNOTT  
CORPORATION COUNSEL**

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